

A DEVERY JURYMAN WAS APPROACHED.

Henry Blyizan Visited at His Home by a Mysterious Stranger.

Claiming to Represent the District Attorney, He Tried to Learn the Juror's Views.

WAS A BRIBE TO BE OFFERED?

Suspicious Aroused by the Conduct of the Unknown—Justice Smyth Indignant When Told of the Affair.

An incident that occurred in the trial of Police Captain Devery before Justice Smyth, in the new Criminal Courts building, yesterday, led a great many people to believe that the friends of the accused officer are taking time by the forelock with a very short grip in their efforts to prevent his conviction.

One of the first three jurors sworn reported to the Court in the afternoon that during the recess he had been "approached" by a stranger, who was evidently a friend of Captain Devery. This juror's name is Henry Blyizan, and he lives at No. 163 Allen street. He is apparently a Swede or Norwegian, and has a

pompador not unlike that of James J. Corbett.

Blyizan had been on the stand for examination during the morning, and the examination was suspended just prior to the recess.

TOLD THE STORY TO THE JUDGE.

After the recess he returned to the stand and at once began to whisper to Justice Smyth. The Justice looked so grave that the attention of everybody in the court room was attracted to the whispered conference. The interest became even more intense when, by order of the Court, the talesman dictated a statement to the stenographer.

The substance of Blyizan's statement was that during the recess he went to his place of business, in Allen street, where he was informed that there was a man in the residence apartments upstairs waiting to see him. He went up immediately and found a stranger there.

The stranger told Blyizan that he was a member of a certain organization, the name of which he did not give, to which another man named Blyizan had applied for membership. He asked if the talesman knew him, and Blyizan said that he did. The stranger asked a number of questions about the financial standing of the second Blyizan, which information was wanted, the visitor said, by the alleged organization referred to.

These questions made the juror suspicious, and he told the visitor that he doubted the truth of his statements about that organization.

Then the stranger with assumed frankness admitted that he came from the District-Attorney's office, and wanted to know how the second Blyizan stood in regard to the Police Department.

Again the juror expressed his doubts and the stranger went away apparently some-

what crestfallen. The juror told the Court that he had given his questioner no special information whatever.

In announcing the facts to the lawyers on both sides, Justice Smyth said there would be no objection to either side obtaining information concerning the juror's family, business affairs and the like, but that it was another matter to approach him concerning his standing toward the Police Department.

COMMENTED THE JUROR.

Continuing, Justice Smyth said: "This talesman acted most judiciously by promptly telling me about this affair. I want to give notice here that if any one attempts to approach a juror, or a person who may become a juror, and he is pointed out to me, he will be dealt with most severely."

Colonel James, one of Captain Devery's counsel, declared that the defence had sent no messages or messengers to Blyizan, and he thoroughly agreed with the remarks of the Justice. Mr. Hollins, also condemned any attempt to trifle with the jury.

Blyizan said that the stranger was about six feet tall, with a smoothly shaven face and of rather heavy build. He endeavored to find the man in the court room, but failed to do so. Justice Smyth declared that the man should be punished if his identity could be discovered.

It was generally conceded about the Criminal Courts building that the story of the stranger, to the effect that he merely wanted information about another Blyizan, was but a subterfuge leading to the sounding of the juror himself.

Subsequent to his revelations Blyizan, who is about thirty years old, was sworn in as juror No. 2.

The whole of yesterday was employed in

trying to secure a jury in the case of Devery, who is charged with accepting a bribe. The "internal test" which is applied to every one summoned as a juror, resulted in the standing aside of nearly all of the men examined upon the ground of mental deficiency. Six jurors have been so far secured. They are:

Anton J. Lehman, manufacturer of canvas goods, No. 281 Broome street.
David Frankenberg, dry goods, Hotel Bristol.
Henry L. Blyizan, collector, No. 163 Allen street.
William C. Koch, grocer, No. 185 Third avenue.
Otto Hower, grocer, No. 690 Second avenue.
Jonas Rosenthal, fur business, No. 5 Great Jones street.

FIRE ON THE FINANCE AT SEA.

Powder in the Cargo Had to Be Thrown Overboard to Save the Steamer.

Colon, March 18.—The steamer Finance, Captain Daly, from New York, March 10, reports that at midnight on March 12, during a hurricane, fire was discovered in the ship's port store room, forward.

The fire burned until 6 o'clock in the morning and destroyed the bulkheads and a large quantity of stores, blocks, sails, etc. At 2 o'clock in the morning the fires in the engine room were put out by the water which flowed in through the manholes, but were rekindled at 4 o'clock.

The powder which was on board the ship was thrown overboard and the lifeboats were launched. The officers and crew behaved with great coolness and bravery. No lives were lost.

These Methodists are Gallant.

Philadelphia, March 18.—By a vote of 117 to 59, the Philadelphia Methodist Episcopal Conference to-day decided in favor of the proposed constitutional amendment admitting women lay delegates to the General Conference.

M'LAUGHLIN GETS A STAY.

Granted Yesterday by Justice Dickie in the Supreme Court in Brooklyn.

The Ex-Inspector About to Be Arrested When His Lawyer Got the Certificate.

RUMORED THAT HE HAD RUN AWAY.

Argument to Be Had in the Case at Newburg Next Saturday—He May Go to Sing Sing After That.

Justice Dickie, in the Supreme Court in Brooklyn, yesterday issued a certificate of reasonable doubt and an order for a stay of proceedings in the case of ex-Police Inspector William W. McLaughlin. The certificate and order were served on Acting District-Attorney Vernon M. Davis late in the afternoon by Lawyer E. E. McCall, who secured them. The stay of proceedings acts as an injunction on the District-Attorney's office in this city, and under it the former Inspector will be free from any danger of arrest until after the case is argued before Judge Dickie, at Newburg, on Saturday.

The order affirming McLaughlin's conviction and certifying to the decision dismissing the appeal taken by the former Inspector from the decision of the lower courts, convicting him of extorting \$100 from Francis W. Siegel, was signed by Chief Justice Van Brunt, in the Appellate Division

of the Supreme Court, yesterday morning. It was sent at once to Acting District-Attorney Davis, and he notified Colonel E. C. James, counsel for McLaughlin, to produce his client in the District-Attorney's office at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, so that he could be taken to Sing Sing Prison at once to serve the two-and-a-half-year sentence imposed.

Colonel James was busy with the trial of ex-Police Captain Devery, in the Criminal Branch of the Supreme Court, when he received the notice. He would not state what action would be taken by him to keep his client from going to Sing Sing. When he was informed that it was the intention of Acting District-Attorney Davis to arraign McLaughlin before Justice Smyth, so that the sentence could be reimposed, he stated that he would then apply to Justice Smyth for a stay of execution of sentence pending the appeal taken by McLaughlin to the Court of Appeals.

At 1 o'clock Deputy Sheriff Sherman entered the District-Attorney's office ready to take McLaughlin to Sing Sing. McLaughlin had not put in an appearance, and it was then rumored that he had fled from the city and would forfeit his \$25,000 bail in preference to going to Sing Sing. Colonel James would give no explanation for the absence of McLaughlin, and as another hour passed and still the former Inspector had not been heard from, Acting District-Attorney Davis and Special Prosecutor Austin G. Fox showed signs of uneasiness. Colonel James calmly proceeded with the trial of ex-Captain Devery and paid no attention to the rumors that his client had jumped his bail.

Although Mr. Davis would not admit that he believed the former Inspector had run away, he was about to apply for a bench warrant to re-arrest McLaughlin and have his bail declared forfeited, when Lawyer McCall entered the District-Attorney's of-

fice with the order granted by Justice Dickie. Mr. McCall went before Justice Dickie about noon yesterday and applied for the certificate of reasonable doubt, and for the order for a stay of proceedings. Justice Dickie took the papers under consideration and after lunch announced that he would grant a temporary stay and the certificate of doubt. Lawyer McCall wanted the stay made permanent pending the appeal to the Court of Appeals, but Justice Dickie would not consent to this unless the District-Attorney was present.

The District-Attorney was accordingly notified, to appear before him at Newburg on Saturday next and show cause why the certificate should not be issued. Until after the argument at Newburg no attempt will be made to arrest McLaughlin.

New Rates to Be Considered.

The managers of the Lake lines met with the representatives of the Trunk line railroads, the New England roads and the roads west of Lake Michigan yesterday, at the Joint Traffic Association rooms, in Liberty street. The purpose of the conference was to consider lake and rail rates to prevail during the coming season. The question was referred to a sub-committee, which will report to the general meeting to be held to-day.

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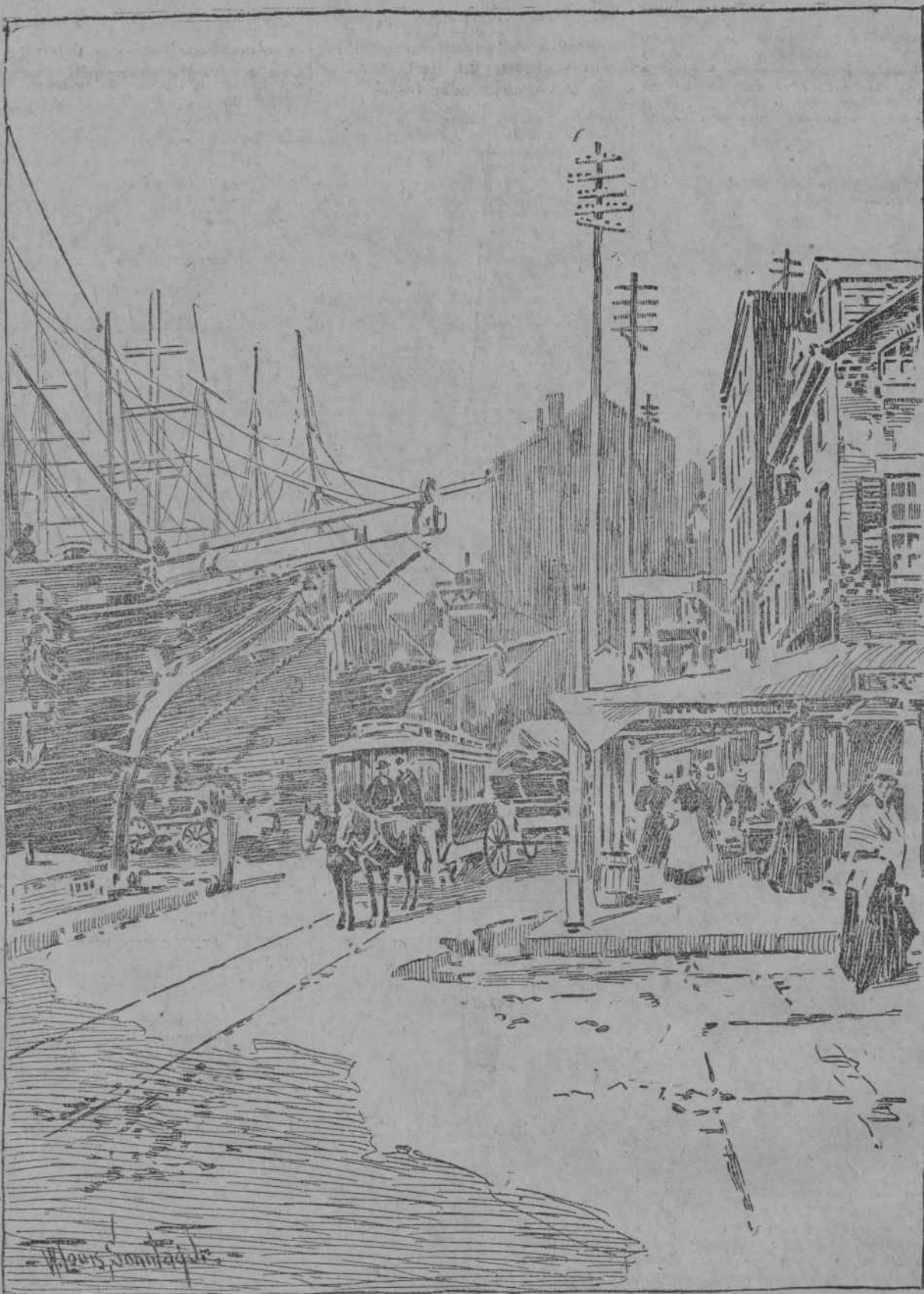
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